

# AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NUMISMATICS,

AND

Bulletin of American Numismatic and Archæological Societies.

VOL. IV.

NEW YORK, FEBRUARY, 1870.

No. 10.

## CURIOUS BRUNSWICK DOLLARS.

It is again and again observed, both in thought and word, at the present day, by the more intelligent among our numismatists, that American collectors, if they would have any field at all, wherein to expatiate or, in Anglo-Saxon, spread themselves, must give more attention to non-American coins. The historically and artistically remarkable pieces of our own country are now generally lodged in cabinets, and the infrequency of public sales for the last two years is a certain sign of the dearth of native material under which we labor. There is no profit, intellectual, moral, or æsthetic, in accumulating the successive annual proof-sets of our Mint? Contemptuously indeed, though with pity, will the virtuoso of the future look upon the monotonous yearly repetitions of the series, and infer from them the spiritually dead level of the age which they reflect. A century of such coins! What a dreary and distressing thing to contemplate! More endurable, were we but blessed with an endless line of heads of Washington, in lieu of the mawkish Liberty, so labelled, or with Christ-bearing or cross-bearing Doves, *Christophæræ Columbæ*, instead of the rapacious eagle.

A few of our pattern-pieces have a historic interest. Those of 1862 and 1863 with the motto "God Our Trust" will, we think, have a permanent value as memorials of the rebellion. Sold, at first, at a very high price, they have sunk, of late, as auctions testify, to one as unreasonably low. The fractional pattern-pieces of the year just past will also probably be esteemed as mementoes of our gradual resumption of specie-currency. But these mint pattern-pieces are very costly, and unsatisfactory to collectors. An uneasy suspicion always haunts our fraternity that the excessive prices charged redound as perquisites to the employees of the institution, who, not content therewith, are continually engaged in multiplying specimens, both in regular and irregular metals, and throwing them into the market, with the effect of lowering the value of those already sold; while some perhaps are laid aside to be brought out with the same result at a more convenient season. Now we say that if these things be, they should cease to be.

Under the circumstances some few are directing their attention to ancient coins, and these few we applaud, and with them warmly sympathize. Others again are attracted by the modern European ones, that is to say, by those of the last three centuries, and considerable numbers of these pieces come to us, probably in the course of our great Teutonic immigration. For they are chiefly German dollars: a class, some of the more curious of which we purpose here to discuss.

It is unfortunate for most of our numismatic students that the authorities on German numismatics are, as is to be expected, in German. But to those who are acquainted with that language, there is opened here, as in every other branch of human knowledge, a copious fountain of information. The two principal vernacular works on German dollars are, first, Madai's "*Thaler Cabinet*", the elder production; and, secondly, *Schulthess-Rechberg's* book with the same title, the more recent and of course the more complete. As Madai's compilation is yet by no means driven from the field, nor will ever be, and since, moreover, we are not so fortunate as to own the other one, we proceed to give some account both of this long-esteemed performance, and, in the first place, of its respected author.

David Samuel Madai, physician and numismatist, was born at Schemnitz, in Lower Hungary, Jan. 4, 1709, and died at Halle, July 2, 1780. His father, who was also a physician, desiring that he should pursue the same career, gave him a suitable education. After having finished his school-studies, he was sent to the university of Halle, and began to attend lectures there, but completed his course at Wittenberg, where he received the degree of Doctor. In 1745 he was made a member, under the name of *Hermes*, of the Academy of the Curious. He had acquired an extensive practice, but this did not prevent him from occupying himself actively with numismatics, a science for which he had a marked taste, and the study of which, expensive as it is, his considerable fortune enabled him to prosecute. He wrote "*Vollständiges Thaler-Cabinet*" (*Complete Dollar-Cabinet*), Königsberg, 1765-1767, 3 vol. 8vo.; "*Fortsetzung*" (*Continuation*) of the same, ib., 1768-1774, 3 vol., 8vo., a work which, being dedicated to the emperor Joseph II., procured Madai and his descendants the rank of nobles of the German Empire; and "*Verzeichniss*" or Catalogue of his Collection, prepared by Madai, but printed after his decease for its auction-sale at Hamburg, Sep. 15, 1788.\*

\* The preceding facts are mostly from Durand, "*Médailles et Jetons des Numismates*", p. 121.

We are so fortunate as to possess this Catalogue, in addition to a neat copy of the Cabinet; and we find on its title-page, an engraving of a portrait-medal of the author, the latter dedicated to him by his friend the Saxon privy-councillor John Augustus von Ponikau at Dresden. The countenance is amiable and intelligent, and the reverse bears the following complimentary legend: VIRO | ARTE MEDICA | CANDORE IN AMICOS | MERITIS IN REM NVMIARIAM | EXCELLENTI | HOC AMICITIAE MONIMENTVM | DICAT | I: A: A P: | MDCCLXXIII. The Thaler-Cabinet is a work that evinces rare industry, enthusiasm, and knowledge. The aggregate number of pieces described in the main book and its three supplements is 7233, or rather, that is the number of the separate articles, of which many a one describes more than a single coin. It was, till lately, an indispensable guide in the investigation of unfamiliar dollars; and, though superseded, it may be, by its younger rival, will always be regarded as a safe director, down to the time which it reaches, and as a remarkable monument of numismatic erudition.

It lay in the nature of the case that, during the interval which had elapsed between the publication of Madai's last supplement and that of Schulthess-Rechberg's first volume, immense additions should be found to have been made to the mass of types of the large silver coins of which the two works treat. Madai's final issue having occurred, as we saw, in 1774, the initial part of the more modern production was offered to the public at Vienna, in 1840, under the title: "Thaler-Cabinet"; Description of all known Dollars of Emperors and Kings, wherein also all pieces described in Madai's Thaler-Cabinet are included, by K. G. knight of Schulthess-Rechberg, retired Lieutenant-Colonel—this being the best translation of his titles which we think of. According to the author's plan, his book was to comprehend five volumes, but this intention appears never to have been carried out. At least we notice that the last part, published at Munich in 1867, after his death, with a portrait and a biography of the deceased, is styled the second division of the third volume. We have already observed that we are not so fortunate as to possess this work; and we know it only from the numerous references made to it in sale-catalogues, and from a brief review of the first volume in a German periodical. We have however, in the form of an appendix to the "Cabinet", a similar catalogue of the author's own collection, making two large volumes, and comprising 7380 lots, marvellously precise and accurate, the work of Julius and Albert Erbstein. Through its aid we were enabled to purchase, by order, at the auction, which took place in June, 1868, and June, 1869, a few very fine specimens at moderate prices.

To return to the new "Cabinet": we learn from the source already mentioned\* that while Schulthess-Rechberg's work contains every piece that Madai's contains, and each one with the same number as his, it also includes not merely those which have come into existence since Madai's time, but also a large number which originated before then, but have become known since he lived. Of the emperor Maximilian I. alone, Rechberg has sixteen pieces more than Madai; in the imperial series of Germany and Austria he has 542 against the 245 of the older writer. This improvement was to be looked for, since he had the imperial-royal cabinet at Vienna to guide him. In other departments however he has aimed, not without success, at a corresponding enrichment; while at the same time he has made the descriptions generally more accurate, and has appended chronological, genealogical and miscellaneous observations in regard to sovereigns, their species and their specie. He also thoroughly explains the armorial bearings, which subject Madai neglected, as most numismatists do, though it is evident that Heraldry is one of the innumerable auxiliary sciences which an accomplished coin-connoisseur must know.

In the absence of this valuable guide, we are compelled to have recourse to that old and respectable Benedictine repository, "L'Art de Vérifier les Dates", in order to take thence the facts which we need for the historic localizing of Henry Julius and Augustus, dukes of Brunswick-Wolfenbüttel, whose queer dollars, not rarely appearing among us, have suggested the present article, and account for its title.

Henry Julius, duke from 1589 to 1613, had a long and unsuccessful quarrel with his city of Brunswick, and was on bad terms with the world generally, as we may infer from his "Wasp Dollar", described in this JOURNAL, Vol. II., p. 92, where he is represented as a lion molested by such insects. Christian, crazy Christian, whose dollar is the subject of the leading article in Vol. II., No. 5, was his second son. Augustus, who succeeded the eldest son in 1634 and reigned till 1666, belonged to a collateral line which it is unnecessary here to trace. He maintained a high reputation for wisdom as well as learning during the trying period of the Thirty Years' War.

Those dollars of Henry Julius, which "turn up", as we say, among us, from time to time, are, in addition to the Wasp dollar:

I. The *Rebel-Dollar*. HENRI. IVLI. D. G. POST. EPIS. HAL. D. BRVN. E. LVN. that is, *Henricus Julius, Dei Gratia, Postulatus Episcopus Halberstadensis, Dux Brunsvicensis et Luneburgensis*, or, Henry Julius, by the Grace of God, Bishop Elect of Halberstadt (a see secularized by the Refor-

\* Leitzmann's *Numismatische Zeitung*, August, 1840; and September, 1840.

mation), Duke of Brunswick and Luneburg. To this legend are appended the letters P. P. C., signifying, not as on modern visiting-cards, *pour prendre congé*, but *Pro Patria Consumor*, I am consumed for my country, the Duke's Motto. A wild man, holding in his right hand a tree torn up by the roots, surmounted by the initials N. M. T., *Noli me tangere*, Touch me not. In his left he grasps, in an upright position, a dart barbed at both ends. Parallel to it run the letters D. C. S. C., *Durum contra stimulos calcitrare*, It is hard to kick against the pricks. A dog prostrate at the feet of the wild man, who is giving him a back-kick, licks one of the prongs of the dart, while from his excrement is growing a rose. All is symbolical of the duke's quarrels with his enemies, as, for instance, this flower which was the device of a family named von Saldern, and the dog, of another called von Asseburg. In the field the date 1595. On the Reverse we find eleven crowned armorial shields of this testy potentate, forming a circle uniting in a helmet at the top. In the centre of this circle is a representation of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram being swallowed up by the earth: under them is the reference NVME. XVI, where their tale is told: above them, in a glory, the letters N. R. M. A. D. I. E. S., of which the best interpretation is: *Non recedet malum a domo ingrati et seditiosi*, Evil shall not depart from the house of the wicked and rebellious man. While we lament the inexpressiveness of our own coinage, we have reason to question whether coins like this would in our day tend to facilitate the reconstruction of rebellious parties, howsoever they might be amused or instructed by the puzzling letters.

II. The *Lie-Dollar*. Legend as before, except that on our specimen LVNE stands in place of LVN. A coat-of-arms, with a crest of three helmets, supported by a wild man on the right. R. Around a lion couchant, holding between his fore-paws a roe-buck, and presenting his hind-quarters to a leafless stick whence sprouts a rose, and crowned with a garland by an angel who hovers over him, we have, first, the date 1596; secondly, outside of this, TANDEM BONA CAVSSA TRIUMPHAT, At length the Good Cause triumphs; and, thirdly, on the extreme margin, HVETE·DICH·FVR·DER·TADT·DER·LVEGEN·WIRDT·WOL·RADT·HH, the signification of which is, as nearly as we can make it out, Beware of the open act; lies can be easily dealt with. The two final letters seem to be the mint-master's initials. Another emblematic piece aimed at the family of von Saldern mentioned above, and at two others, namely, von Steinberg, whose device was the roe-buck, and von Stockheim, which bore the stick as its type.

III. The *Truth-Dollar*. HENRI·IVLI·DEI·GRATIA·POST·EPIS·HAL·D·B·E·L·P·P·C·, a legend which has been sufficiently explained. The whole field is occupied by RECTE | FACIENDO | NEMINEM | TIMEAS | 1597, In doing right fear no man. R. The naked Truth, with a halo round the head, and arms outstretched so as to give the appearance of a crucifix; above it, VERITAS | VIN | CIT | OM | NIA, beneath it, two outstretched figures, the one to the left surmounted by the word CALVM | NIA, the one to the right by the word MEN | DACIVM. Around the whole, eleven coats-of-arms, uniting in a crown at the top. Of this Dollar, Madai says merely that it is made of silver from the Hartz mountains, and refers to the various vexations which this prince had to suffer till the truth of his cause prevailed. The coarseness of the Duke's invectives seems then to have abated; since this piece is so much less aggressive and more decent than the other two which we have described.

Of Duke Augustus we intend to mention only the seven "Bell-Dollars". The "Bell-Dollars" are, according to the most common and convenient classification, seven in number, and the seventh, of which the distinctive feature is that its bell is being swung by three hands and arms, is the most abundant of all, and therefore appears occasionally in our market. The others are all rare, the third being particularly so. We have before us, in addition to the seventh, the first and the second, both obtained from foreign sales. A description of each singular one of the singular seven is of course to be found in Madai; but a still fuller and more accurate account, illustrated too by a representation of them all in a plate beautifully executed, occurs in Köhler's *Historische Münz-Belustigung*, for May 4, 1729. In the same publication for Feb. 8, 1747, is a fac-simile of sketches of the second and the fourth from the Duke's own hand, proving, directly in regard to these dollars, and inferentially in regard to the remaining five, that they were invented by the Duke himself, and not, as Madai informs us, by a certain privy-councillor named Andreae. The work which we have just mentioned, Köhler's "Historical Coin-Recreations", is another of those remarkable German books which so richly repay the student for his labor in acquiring the language. It was issued as a weekly periodical from Jan. 5, 1729, to Dec. 30, 1750, each weekly part illustrated by a finely executed representation of a coin or medal and devoted to the elucidation thereof. The twelve goodly double volumes, the last consisting of an ample index, and all bound, as ours are, in fair "schweinsleder" or vellum, with bright red edges, are an adornment as well as a treasure to a numismatic library, affording instruction on many a rare piece not elsewhere discussed. But now to the seven sisters:

1. *First Bell-Dollar*. AUGUSTUS·HERTZOG·ZU·BRAUNS·UND·LU., Augustus, Duke of Brunswick and Luneburg. Three-quarter portrait to the left; head bare; in armor, over which falls a broad lace-collar; in his right hand a truncheon, in his left a helmet with three plumes. The same likeness appears on all but the seventh; and the same legend, with slight variations.

*Reverse*: \*ALLES\* MIT \*BEDACHT\* · HXS · ANNO · 1643. A Bell without a clapper, but properly attached to its yoke, whence hangs a cord. On the rim of the bell are the letters T · S · G · E · B; beneath it · SIC · NISI. The first three words are the ducal motto: All with Thoughtfulness; the letters which follow are the initials of the mint-master Hans Schlütter, separated by his mark, two keys laid cross-wise. Now for the interpretation, which will apply both to this dollar and the following ones. The town of Wolfenbüttel, belonging to Duke Augustus, was, in the Thirty Years' War, occupied first by the Danes, in 1625, and afterwards by the Imperialists, in 1627. The latter agreed, by a treaty made at Goslar in 1642, to surrender it to its rightful prince. Opposition being made at Vienna to the ratification of this instrument, it was ultimately confirmed by another at Brunswick in 1643. The thirteenth of September was appointed for the transference of possession, but it did not take place till the following day. For this long exclusion from his city and these repeated delays, the Duke, in whose family the possession of the Hartz silver mines seems to have developed a numismatic taste, consoled himself to some extent by this series of hieroglyphic dollars. The ordinary explanation of T · S · G · E · B is *Tandem Sequetur Gloriosus Exitus Brunsvicensis*, or, At length will follow a glorious Brunswick result; the Latin of which is about as bad as the English. The Duke's own interpretation, as given in the fac-simile already mentioned, is in every respect preferable and should be adopted, viz: *Uti Campana Absque Pistillo*, As a bell without a clapper; *Sic Tractatus Sunt Goslariensis Et Brunsvicensis*, So are the Treaties of Goslar and Brunswick; *Nisi Executio subsequatur*, Unless Execution supervene.

2. *Second Bell-Dollar*. This one differs from the first merely in having the word UTI prefixed to SIC NISI on the reverse; and the explanation is easily gathered from what has gone before.

3. *Third Bell-Dollar*. This Dollar, which is exceedingly rare, exists in two varieties, of which the first has SIC NISI, and the second UTI SIC NISI; but both have, on the rim of the bell, instead of the letters T · S · G · E · B, the word GLORIA. The meaning is, we presume, Like a Bell without a clapper will be our Glory unless, &c.

4. *Fourth Bell-Dollar*. Reverse with motto as before, and date without the word ANNO. The clapper of a bell leaning on a block, under which is the word SED? But? The clapper is inscribed 15 · K · MAII · i.e., April 19; and the block, AP. 13 VIO IN f, meaning Apocalypse, or Revelations, ch. 13, verse 10, at the end. This text is "Here is the patience and the faith of the saints". It appears that on the day above-mentioned the clapper of the bell was found, or, in other words, the Emperor ratified the treaties: but in the interval before its execution, what was needed? Patience and faith were still in request.

5. *Fifth Bell-Dollar*. The clapper, inscribed E, in the bell, on the sides of which we have TAN | DEM. On the rim of the bell, W · A · I · D · I · R; and below it, M · VII · B · 13 · 8

6. *Sixth Bell-Dollar*. The sixth differs from the fifth only in having, instead of the last letters and sign, the following: M · VII · B · 14 · 24. For the interpretation of these two it is necessary to observe that the surrender of Wolfenbüttel having been appointed to take place on Wednesday, Sept. 13, 1643, was postponed, for various reasons to Thursday, Sept. 14; also that the alchemical sign 8 stands for Mercury, whose day is Wednesday, *Dies Mercurii*, while 24 indicates Jupiter, and *Dies Jovis*, or Thursday. The meaning then of all the letters is [*Tandem*] *Ergo Wolfenbüttum Abs Injustis Detentoribus Invoide Restituetur Mensis Septembris die decimo tertio [quarto] qui erit Mercurii [Jovis]*: At length then Wolfenbüttel shall be reluctantly restored by its unjust detainers on the thirteenth (fourteenth) of the month of September, which will be Wednesday (Thursday).

7. *Seventh Bell-Dollar*. Instead of the portrait we have the Brunswick-Lüneburg coat-of-arms, with eleven fields, and five crests; and, on the reverse, the bell powerfully swung by three arms on the right, holding each a rope in its hand. Beneath is the town of Wolfenbüttel in the rays of the rising sun. On the bell, in two lines, NVN · PAC · | EX · SO · EI., *Nuncius Pacis Ex Sono Ejus*, From its sound a message of Peace. The legend is ANNO · 1643 · TANDEM · PATIENTIA · VICTRIX ·, Patience at length Victorious, a very appropriate motto wherewith to close this long article, which, if it has wearied the reader, has all but exhausted the writer, and repaid him his full deserts for inflicting it on his unoffending little public. He will only repeat that the seventh Bell-Dollar is common, and is seen from time to time at our sales; and will add that it exists in at least twenty-one varieties. It relates, of course, to the Duke's occupation of his town; while the three arms are said to typify the three branches which the ducal family at that time comprised.

#### THE TREASURE-TROVE AT SIDON.

Since fine gold pieces of Philip and Alexander occasionally present themselves to the notice of collectors as emanating from the celebrated discovery of the supposed military-chest of some ancient Greek commander or commissary in the vicinity of the mother-city of Phœnicia, we think that we are doing our readers a service by extracting for them from a traveller's book the best account



of it which we have met with, together with some general remarks on Oriental treasure-troves. The author is W. M. Thomson, D.D., "twenty-five years a Missionary of the A. B. C. F. M. in Syria and Palestine"; the work is called "The Land and the Book"; the passages are found at p. 194, ff., of the first volume. "About three years ago"—says the Doctor, in February, 1857—"some workmen, digging over the ground of a garden, 'found several copper pots, which contained a large quantity of ancient gold coin'."

"The poor fellows concealed the discovery with the greatest care; but they were wild with excitement, and, besides, there were too many of them to keep such a secret. The governor of the city heard of it, apprehended all who had not fled, and compelled them to disgorge. He recovered two of the pots, placed them beside him, and required them to re-fill them with coin. In this way he obtained between two and three thousand, but it is certain that there remain hundreds, if not thousands, which he could not get. The French consul told me that the whole number was over eight thousand. They are all coins of Alexander and his father Philip, of the most pure gold, each one worth a little more than an English sovereign. As there is no mixture of coins later than Alexander, the deposit must have been made during his reign, or immediately after. I suspect it was royal treasure, which one of Alexander's officers concealed when he heard of his unexpected death in Babylon, intending to appropriate it to himself, but, being apprehended, slain, or driven away by some of the revolutions which followed that event, the coin remained where he had hid it. If we remember how much more valuable gold was then than now, the amount of this deposit will surprise us, nor does it seem likely that any private man in Sidon could have gathered what was probably at that time equivalent to forty thousand pounds, and all of this particular coin of Philip and Alexander. The latter appears as he is usually figured, and his face is too familiar to need explanation. Philip I had not seen before, and was particularly pleased to find him associated with the chariot and horses, of which he was so proud and so vain.

"There are frequent allusions to hid treasure in the Bible. Even in Job, the oldest book in the world, we read that the bitter in soul dig for death more earnestly than for hid treasures.\* There is not another comparison within the whole compass of human actions so vivid as this. I have heard of diggers actually fainting when they have come upon even a single coin. They become positively frantic, dig all night with desperate earnestness, and continue to work until utterly exhausted. There are, at this hour, hundreds of persons thus engaged all over the country. Not a few spend their last farthing in these ruinous efforts. I heard a respectable man in Sidon declare that if he had been one of these fortunate diggers in this garden, he would have killed all the rest, and fled with the treasure out of the country. These operations are carried on with the utmost secrecy, accompanied with charms and incantations against the jan and other spirits which are said to keep guard over hid treasures. The belief in the existence of these guards, and of their dangerous character, is just as prevalent now as in the time of the Thousand Nights. Intelligent and respectable people have assured me that they have come upon slabs of stone, closing up doors to secret chambers, which no power on earth could remove, because the proper password or charm is lost. Others soberly assert that they have been driven away by terrible jan, who threatened them with instant death if they attempted to force the doors. They evidently believe what they say, and I suspect that their fears are not always imaginary. Persons are watching their midnight labor, and when anything is found they suddenly show themselves, dressed as ghouls or jan, and thus frighten them out of the pit, and out of their wits as well. The wild excitement, the gloomy darkness, and the firm faith in the existence of these creatures, render the workmen wholly incapable of detecting the artifice. The Arabs universally believe that the Western nations, particularly the Greeks and the Mugharaby, possess certain *daleel*, or guides, by which they discover these treasures; and many of these vagabond Greeks cheat the ignorant and the credulous out of large sums by contracting to lead them to the proper spot to dig; and it is remarkable that they rarely point out a place entirely destitute of concealed chambers and other curious indications. These, I suppose, are detected by some peculiarity in the sounds when the surface is struck or stamped upon above them. At any rate, they are sufficiently successful to keep up their credit, although I never knew an instance where anything of value was obtained from the places indicated by these daleels. On the contrary, these deposits are always found by accident; and this is the more remarkable when it is remembered that multitudes are either secretly or openly searching for them all over the land. We shall be annoyed in all our rambles over ruins by the suspicion, almost universal among the people, that we are "seeking for hid treasures". Hence they will watch us, follow us, and, whenever a private opportunity offers, will endeavor to enter into partnership with us in the search.

"Solomon has drawn a proverb from this practice. If thou seekest her (understanding) as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasure, then shalt thou understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God.† Alas! how few manifest any of this earnestness in seeking for wisdom.

\* Job iii. 23.

† Prov. ii. 4.

"Our blessed Lord also founds one of his divine parables on this same custom. The kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field, the which when a man hath found he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath and buyeth that field.† Many such transactions are still negotiated in secret. It is extremely difficult, and even dangerous, to remove treasure thus discovered in another person's field; but, having purchased it, you can wait in safety, work in secret, and the coveted treasure is yours.

"It is not difficult to account for this hid treasure. This country has always been subject to revolutions, invasions, and calamities of various kinds, and hence a feeling of insecurity hovers over the land like a dismal spectre. The government robs, and so do the nobility and the clergy; Arabs rush in from the desert and plunder; warriors and conquerors from every part of the world sweep over the land, carrying everything away that falls into their hands. Then there are, and always have been, intestine commotions and wars, such as laid Lebanon in ruins in 1841, and again in 1845. At such times multitudes bury their gold and jewels, and in many cases the owners are killed, and no one knows where the treasure was concealed. Then, again, this country has ever been subject to earthquakes, which bury everything beneath her ruined cities. On the first day of 1837, Safed was thus dashed to the ground in a moment, house upon house down the steep mountain side, and many entire families were cut off. Some were known to have had money, and it was a shocking spectacle to see hardened wretches prowling about under the ruins, amid putrefying carcasses, in search of these treasures. The whole population from the surrounding villages, undeterred by the awful judgment which had laid their own buildings in heaps, and buried many of their families alive, rushed into Safed to dig out the entombed riches of the Jews; nor was the search in vain. The same shocking spectacle is witnessed in times of plague or cholera. People hide their money to keep it from those miscreants who take advantage of the general consternation to break into houses and rob. We need not be surprised, therefore, to find that this country abounds, and ever has abounded, in hid treasure. No custom can be found among any people so firmly rooted as this, of searching for hid treasure, without some real foundation for it. Lay this aside as a rule, which may be safely applied on all occasions and to all questions".

## TRANSACTIONS OF SOCIETIES.

### AMERICAN NUMISMATIC AND ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

*Regular Meeting, Thursday, January 27, 1870.*—Mr. Levick exhibited a collection of United States cents. Mr. Bailey exhibited a number of Canadian copper coins. Mr. Groh exhibited a coronation bronze medal of Ferdinand VII.; also a medal struck in bronze to celebrate the capture of Belle Isle on the 7th of June, 1761: Obverse, *Georgius tertius Rex*; Reverse, *Calonesus Capta VII Junii MDCCCLXI. Instat vi Patria*. Mr. Levick exhibited a Mexican dollar (the property of Mr. Betts) of 1869 (new type): Obverse, Liberty cap and rays, scroll with the inscription: *Ley Un Peso*; Reverse, *Republica Mexicana*, Eagle. Edge milled. A donation was received from Mr. Cogan of four uncirculated cents of 1817, 1818, 1819, 1820, for the Cabinet of the Society. Received by mail, "Catalogue of Roman Medals, Greek, French, and Foreign Coins of the late Mons. Bellet de Tavernost, of Lyons, to be sold in Paris, Feburary, 1870".

JAMES M. BAILEY, *Recording Secretary*.

### NEW ENGLAND NUMISMATIC AND ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

The regular meeting of this Society was held on Thursday evening, January 20th, Vice-President Crosby occupying the chair.

Donations were reported of a number of old and rare documents and autographs from M. A. Stickney, Esq., of Salem, and sundry coins from Messrs. T. E. Bond and S. H. Chadbourne.

Mr. M. D. Gilman, of Auburndale, Mass., was elected a resident member of the Society.

A vacancy in the Committee on Publication was filled by the appointment of Mr. J. E. Root as a member of that committee.

It was voted, That a committee of three be appointed to confer with the incorporators of the proposed "Art Museum" in relation to having a department in the museum devoted to coins and medals. Messrs. Root, Chaplin, and Child were appointed as that committee.

Mr. Chaplin exhibited a lot of French medals, embracing a number of the Kings of France, and Mr. Crosby showed a set of nine patterns of 50, 25, and 10 cent pieces of 1869—three of each denomination. The obverse of the first design among these patterns (or the best in the estimation of

the members) presents us with the head of Liberty with a draped bust, and a ribbon around the head, upon which is the word "LIBERTY". The ends of the ribbon flow, intermingled with the locks of hair, behind the neck. Above the forehead is a single four-pointed star (?), if that can be called a star which has but four points. The hair behind the head is bound in a fillet. Legend, "UNITED STATES OF AMERICA". In exergue, a scroll inscribed with the motto, "IN GOD WE TRUST".

The other designs differ from the first principally in the heads, that which was placed as second having a head somewhat smaller and a coronet (?) above the brow, the hair differing but slightly from the first. The third head is about the same in size with the second, but bears a helmet and has two mullets above the forehead; and the hair is shorter on the head, and thrown back over the edge of the helmet, but behind the neck it flows in ringlets. A ribbon appears behind and upon the hair, but not intertwined therewith, which bears the word "LIBERTY". Upon the field, above the L of the word Liberty, is the initial "B".

The designs upon the obverses of the 25 and 10 cent pieces of the first two types are the same as that of the 50 cent piece, with the exception that the word Liberty is omitted from the heads upon the 10 cent pieces. In the design of the third type more difference is observable, in the addition of another mullet over the forehead, and the omission of the initial B from the field.

The reverses of all are from one design and differ little, except in the figures designating the value, and the omission from the smaller pieces of the two stars which are upon the 50 cent piece on each side of the date, midway between it and the legend. The design is as follows: "50 CENTS", within a wreath of laurel and oak; legend, "\* STANDARD SILVER \*"; in exergue, the date "1869".

There are but three dies for the reverses of the nine varieties (one of each size), the only difference between the pieces of the same denomination being in the obverse.

It is said that but 69 sets of these patterns were struck with this date.

The weight of these patterns is less than that of the regularly authorized coinage, as shown by the following comparison:

	Legal weight (by act of Feb. 21, 1853).				Proposed weight.	
50 cent piece,	-	-	192 grains,	-	-	154 grains.
25 " "	-	-	96 " "	-	-	77 " "
10 " "	-	-	38½ " "	-	-	31½ " "

The opinion was general among the members that the coronet and helmet were entirely inappropriate upon American coins, and that the proper place for the date is upon the obverse—in fact, the act of March 3d, 1849, requires it to be so placed. After further discussion on other subjects, the meeting adjourned.

DUDLEY R. CHILD, *Recording Secretary.*

#### BOSTON NUMISMATIC SOCIETY.

The monthly meeting was held on Thursday, February 3, at the regular hour. The Secretary read the report of the last meeting, and a letter from M. Jules Marcou, of Paris, accepting corresponding membership; in it M. Marcou mentions having lately obtained a rare Franco-American coin of Louis XIV., 1670, with the inscription "GLORIAM REGNI TUI DICENT". (See AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NUMISMATICS for January, 1870.) The Secretary announced a donation from Alfred Sandham, of Montreal, of his volume on the Coins, Medals, and Tokens of the Dominion of Canada, and from M. Hoffman, of Paris, of the catalogue of a large collection of coins to be sold in that city. The President announced a donation of seventy-three copper coins from H. O. Preble, of Charlestown. Mr. Crosby exhibited a set of patterns, prepared at the U. S. Mint in 1869, comprising three each of fifty cents, twenty-five cents, and ten cents, having one reverse combined with three different heads; the weight is considerably reduced from the present standard. Mr. Root exhibited an uncirculated half-dollar of 1824, stamped with the head of Washington on one side and Lafayette on the other, a proof dollar of Chili, of 1868, and a half-penny of George III. of 1772, on which the name is misspelt GEORGIUS. The Secretary showed a number of gold, silver, and copper coins from Hindostan, most of which are of the Mogul Emperors of Delhi, though some are of much earlier date; also two copper medals of Admiral Vernon, bought at Frankfort, and different from any previously in his collection, which now numbers fifty-four varieties; also bills for one dollar and fifty cents, issued for the Republic of Cuba by the Central Junta.

Dr. S. A. Green read the following passage from the "Memoirs of Thomas Hollis", London, 1780, Vol. I. pp. 397-8:

The following anecdote, in a letter from Dr. Elliott to Mr. Hollis, dated in this month [May, 1768], may amuse our readers:  
 "Sir Thomas Temple, brother to Sir William, resided several years in New England, during the interregnum. After the Restoration, he returned to England: the King sent for him, and conversed with him on the state of affairs in the Massachusetts, and discovered great warmth against that colony: among other things he said, they had invaded his prerogative by coining money. Sir Thomas, who was a real friend to the colony, told his Majesty, the colonists had but little acquaintance with law: that they had no ill design, and thought it no crime to make money for their own use. In the course of the conversation Sir Thomas took some of the money out of his pocket, and presented it to the King. On one side of the coin was a pine-tree, of that sort which is thick and bushy towards the top. Charles inquired what tree that was? Sir Thomas informed him, it was the royal oak; adding, that the Massachusetts people, not daring to put his Majesty's name on their coin dur-

ing the late troubles, had impressed upon it the emblem of the oak which preserved his Majesty's life. This account of the matter put the King into good humour, and disposed him to hear what Sir Thomas had to say in their favour; calling them a parcel of honest dogs."

In "A collection of original papers, relative to the history of the colony of Massachusetts Bay", published at Boston 1769 (of which we shall take occasion to speak particularly hereafter), the following description of this money, by Edward Randolph, is inserted:

"As a mark of sovereignty, they coin money, stamped with inscription 'Mattachusetts', with a tree in the centre, on the one side; and 'New England', with the year 1652, and the value of the piece on the reverse. All the money is stamped with these figures, 1652, that year being the era of the common-wealth, wherein they erected themselves into a free state, enlarged their dominions, subjected the adjacent colonies under their obedience, and summoned deputies to sit in the general court; which year is still commemorated on their coin."

This is extracted from a long invidious narrative, sent by this Randolph (who appears to have been a court spy upon the people of Massachusetts) in the year 1676, to "the right honourable Lords of his Majesty's most honourable privy council, appointed a committee for trade and plantations".

The editor of this "Collection", in a marginal note upon the latter of these paragraphs, says, "This is a misrepresentation. The first money of this impress being stamped in 1652, they never altered the date, although they stamped more annually for thirty years together".

Some of this money must be yet in being. It is not improbable but Mr. Hollis must have had some of it. A pious antiquary will, in some remote period, seek for it with avidity.

The Society adjourned shortly after 5 P. M.

W. S. APPLETON, Secretary.

## NUMISMATIC AND ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY OF MONTREAL.

It is a part of our duty as journalists to record, from time to time, the progress of the several societies existing in Montreal, and to encourage them in well-doing, and on the threshold of the New Year we have much pleasure in wishing increased success to the above-named association.

It is obvious that such a body cannot boast of a large number of members, as the "antiquarium trade" does not attract the multitude; we are aware that in cities such as London and Manchester, in the old country, similar associations are limited in their lists of membership, and that the real work of such societies falls on a few who are thoroughly in earnest; we were therefore not prepared to learn the progress made by the Montreal Society during the past year.

The annual subscription (two dollars) does not leave a large margin for the purchase of any specimens; the Society has therefore to rely upon the donations of its members and any friends whom they may interest in their pursuit. In addition to a small but steady increase to the Society's cabinet from private sources, it has recently been making an effort to collect a complete series of Coins and Medals illustrative of Canadian history, and with this object in view has addressed many public institutions in Quebec and Ontario, and so far has met with well-merited success. In addition to the medals issued by McGill College (which, through the kindness of the managers, have been presented to the Society some time since), the following institutions have cheerfully responded by the donations of their medals: Natural History Society of Montreal (Bronze); Bishops College, Lennoxville, (do); Laval University, Quebec, (2 Medals Silver and Bronze); and The Victoria College, Cobourg, and the University of Toronto have ordered copies of their medals in Bronze to be struck for presentation to the Society.

Further, we are glad to learn that the Secretary of State has forwarded one of the Dominion Confederation Medals to the Society. This is the more valuable as it is an acknowledgment of its existence as a body politic, and since it has obtained a charter of incorporation during the present Legislative session, it may be regarded as the legally constituted depository for all matters coming within its range, and it cannot fail to grow yearly into a wider sphere of usefulness. At the annual meeting held recently the following officers for the year 1870, were elected

President, Mr. H. Mott; Vice-Presidents, Messrs. D. Rose and R. J. Wicksteed; Treasurer, Mr. W. Blackburn; Curator, Mr. R. W. McLachlan; and Secretary, Mr. Gerald E. Hart.

We wish the Society all sorts of prosperity in the New Year, and believe that it is deserving our good wishes. There are, of course, many who take no interest in the collection of "antiques", and who are very severe on our friends, and dispose of them with an off-hand remark about "rusty coppers", &c., nevertheless we believe that such a Society, working on without ostentation, or obtruding itself unbecomingly, is doing a great amount of good, and accumulating information which probably could not be collected in any other shape. The Society hopes to increase its number of members during the present year, and is content to work on noiselessly as heretofore, bearing in mind the refrain of Charles Mackay's verses:

"Grub little moles, grub under ground,  
There is sunshine in the sky".

—Montreal Daily News, January 13, 1870.

## RECENT WORKS OF J. A. BOLEN, SPRINGFIELD, MASS.

Our last notice of Dies cut by that ingenious artist, Mr. Bolen, will be found on page 32 of the current volume. Unfortunately, the two pieces there described, viz.: the "Carolina Elephant", and the Mule of the Carolina with the "London Elephant" were incorrectly numbered. They should be numbers 35 and 36, instead of 34 and 35. Number 34 will be found on page 76 of Vol. III, in the Transactions of the American Numismatic and Archaeological Society. It is a Presidential Medal of General Grant. We have now to add to the list numbers 37, 38, and 39, which are just ready, and of which the following is a description:

No. 37. LIBER NATUS LIBERTATEM DEFENDO \* An Indian, full-length, erect, three-quarters to the left, head-dress of feathers, over his right shoulder a quiver, in his right hand a hatchet, in his left a bow. R. • NEO EBORACUS 1783 • EXCELSIOR An eagle, facing, wings expanded, head to right, on a hemisphere.

No. 38. Obverse as in No. 37. R. 1787 EXCELSIOR beneath the Arms of the State of New York: Sun rising behind mountains, at whose base appears the sea; crest, an eagle with expanded pinions on a hemisphere; supporters, Liberty and Justice, female full-length figures, with their attributes, to right and left.

No. 39. GEORGE • CLINTON • Head of Clinton to the right. Reverse, as in No. 38.

Mr. Bolen will furnish either of these pieces, in copper, at the price of Two Dollars, enclosed to his address, which is simply Springfield, Mass. They are extremely well done, and may serve as substitutes for the originals till collectors have the good fortune to obtain the former.

## THE ALLEGED RE-STRIKES.

PHILADELPHIA, January 9, 1870.

PROF. ANTHON, Editor American Journal of Numismatics:

DEAR SIR:—In your January issue of the JOURNAL there appears a communication from Edward Cogan in regard to the originality of the U. S. Cents of 1817 to '20, inclusive, wherein occurs the following unjust statement: "Judge, then, of my surprise to find in Mason & Co.'s Magazine, of this month (Jan.), a caution against buying these pieces as being re-strikes". We did not refer to the above-named cents at all in our reply to a correspondent; but to the re-strike 1804 cents—as is well known by the party who made the enquiry of us; and to whom alone the reply was addressed. We trust you will admit this refutation of Mr. Cogan's assertion, in justice to Mr. J. Swan Randall and myself. We never doubted the genuineness of the bright red pennies of '17, '18, '19, and '20, to which Mr. Cogan alludes.

Yours, truly,

MASON & Co.